

## **OVERSEAS HUMANITARIAN, DISASTER, and CIVIC AID (OHDACA) APPROPRIATION**

DoD Humanitarian Assistance, Disaster Relief, and Mine Action (HDM) activities are financed by the OHDACA appropriation and support Secretary Rumsfeld's statement *"Every effort we take to demonstrate the depth of America's compassion and generosity is an important step in the global war on terror."*

Budget authority for FY 2005: \$175.8 million - \$58.9 million was appropriated in the FY 2005 DoD Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-287) and enacted on August 5, 2004; an additional \$95.0 million was reprogrammed from other DoD accounts to support USPACOM's tsunami relief efforts; and the FY 2005 Emergency Supplemental (P.L. 109-13) provided another \$22 million. The FY 2006 DoD Appropriations Act (P.L. 109-148, enacted December 30, 2005) appropriated \$61.5 million. The Presidents Budget submission to for FY 2007 includes \$63.2 million for OHDACA.

The OHDACA appropriation includes three sub-activities: the Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), the Humanitarian Mine Action Program (HMA) and Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (FDR/ER). The period of availability for the annual appropriation is two years. Programs supports U.S. National Security Strategy and the Secretary of Defense Security Cooperation Strategy by:

- Maintaining a robust overseas presence aimed at shaping the international security environment in a manner that assures our allies and friends, deters threats against U.S. interests, and promotes peace, democracy, and human rights in unstable regions.
- Aiding U.S. forces to respond rapidly and effectively to crises across the full range of military operations including assisting the victims of storms, earthquakes and other natural or manmade disasters. Timely response displays genuine concern of the US to help alleviate dire situations.

OHDACA programs are unobtrusive, low cost, but highly effective activities that help partners help themselves, improve access to areas not otherwise available to US forces, and build collaborative relationships with host nation's civil society.

- Augment the CoCom capabilities to respond rapidly and effectively to humanitarian crises.
- U.S. military obtains substantial training and access benefits by participating in OHDACA activities enhancing readiness across a number of operational areas — including C<sup>3</sup>I, civil affairs, civil and combat engineering, explosive ordnance disposal, logistics, medical, and special operations.

The Humanitarian Assistance (HA) Program is designed to shape the military environment and provide relief to people in need. DoD humanitarian assistance supports regional security cooperation strategies by providing access to selected countries and fostering goodwill for the U.S. military. The program is authorized by 10USC 2557/2561.

- It seeks to avert humanitarian crises, promote democratic development and regional stability, and enable countries to recover from conflict. By providing early assistance, the program minimizes the potential for crises to develop or escalate further.
- Regional stability is enhanced, minimizing the risk of eventual large-scale deployments of U.S. military forces.
- Refurbishes and provides transportation of non-lethal DoD excess property.
- Allows transportation for relief supplies donated by private voluntary and non-governmental agencies and international organizations, and transports non-lethal DoD excess property.
- On-the-ground assistance activities aimed at relieving suffering and improving USG presence. Activities include assessment visits, training and modest construction projects, well drilling, as well as medical, technical and logistical assistance.

The Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) Program is a major component of the USG and DoD's security cooperation efforts. It includes the operation of DSCA's Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The program is authorized by 10USC401.

- Permits DoD to accrue significant training and readiness-enhancing benefits to U.S. forces, while at the same time contributing to alleviating a highly visible, worldwide problem. U.S. military personnel do not enter active minefields or remove explosive remnants of war (ERW).
- HMA is comprised of five complementary activities or 'pillars': 1) infrastructure development for host nation mine action agencies, 2) ERW and landmine education and risk reduction, 3) demining (survey/markings/mapping, clearance, and quality assurance/control), 4) victims' assistance, and 5) research and development to improve the effectiveness of all aspects of the first 4 pillars.
- Significant benefits accrue to U.S. military forces.
  - Provides access to geographical areas otherwise not easily available to U.S. forces.
  - Increases unit and individual readiness by providing unique in-country training opportunities i.e. critical wartime, civil-military, language, cultural, and foreign internal defense skills.
  - DoD health services professionals conduct programs to assist victims that enable U.S. military medical contacts with foreign medical providers and provide direct humanitarian assistance.

Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (FDR/ER) supports the ability of the Department, through the Combatant Commanders, to respond to natural and manmade disasters and to manage the humanitarian considerations of security crises. FDR/ER initiatives are approved by the State Department. Combatant Commanders may provide immediate life-saving assistance when there is not sufficient time to seek prior concurrence. Authorized by 10 USC, sections 404/2561.

- Activities funded include transportation of emergency assistance during foreign disasters and programs to plan and prepare for such contingencies, such as training of first responder personnel.
- Emergency response includes services and supplies for transportation, logistical support, search and rescue, medical evacuation, assistance to internally displaced personnel and the provision of Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDR) to those in need of emergency food support.
- Projects help recipient countries to build indigenous capabilities to respond to crises thus, reducing the potential need for U.S. military involvement in crisis management and response.

Program Management Processes and Procedures. Primary organizations involved in HDM activities outside of DSCA are OASD SOLIC, the Combatant Commanders (CoCom), and the Department of State: USAID and the Bureau for Political – Military Affairs.

- Any disaster relief or emergency response must first be requested by the local American Embassy and approved by DoS except for immediate life-saving circumstances noted above.
- OASD(SOLIC) and DSCA jointly transmit a policy/program management guidance message for the HA community annually. CoCom proposed HA projects are then entered into a global Internet system based on their TSCG and other priorities.
- DSCA reviews and, if the project fits policy/legal criteria, releases it to the interagency for review. DSCA then approves/disapproves the project, which then determines eligibility for funding. The CoCOMs decide which projects are funded based on the funds allocated.
- The majority of CoCOM projects are entered as part of an annual plan with 'out-of-cycle' projects submitted as required. However, all CENTCOM's projects are 'out-of-cycle' as a result of the need to identify and execute priority emerging projects in both Afghanistan and Iraq.